

Indiana Judicial Nominating Commission
30 South Meridian Street
Suite 500
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 232-4706

APPLICATION
FOR THE
COURT OF APPEALS OF INDIANA

The application for the August 2015 vacancy in the Second District of the Court of Appeals of Indiana includes two parts. Both Part One and Part Two **must** be completed. Part Two must be provided separately as directed in the instructions. Answers in Part One and Part Two are a matter of public record and will be supplied to the media and public upon request. However, only answers in Part One may be posted online by the Indiana Judicial Nominating Commission.

PART ONE, Sections 1-11

1. **Contact/General Information**

A. Full legal name and any former names.

Christopher Michael Goff

B. State the full name (use initials for minor children), age and relationship of each person residing in your household. For each adult living in the household (other than yourself), also state the person's occupation and employer.

1. Raquel Goff, 43, spouse, Adult Enrollment Specialist, Indiana Wesleyan University.
2. Daniel Fortunato Goff, 18, son, high school student.
3. E.G., 14, daughter.
4. I.F.G., 7, daughter.

C. Business address, email, and telephone number.

Wabash Superior Court
59 W. Hill St.
Wabash, IN 46992
superiorcourtjudge@wabashcounty.in.gov
(260) 563-0661 (ext. 1254 and 1256)

D. Attorney number.

19799-53

E. Month and year you were admitted to the Indiana Bar.

June, 1997.

a. Indicate current law license status, i.e. active/inactive/retired.

Active

b. If you are or have been a member of the Bar of any other state, identify the jurisdiction and provide date(s) of admission and current license status.

Not applicable.

F. Date and place of birth.

April 25, 1972; Wabash, Indiana.

G. County of current residence and date you first became a resident.

Wabash; April 25, 1972.

2. Secondary Education/Military Experience

A. List all undergraduate colleges and universities you attended. Include the school name; dates enrolled; degree or certificate earned; and any academic honors, awards, or scholarships you received and when.

Ball State University; August, 1990-May, 1994.

Bachelor of Arts, *summa cum laude*

Academic Honors: Mortar Board, spring, 1994; Phi Society, spring, 1993; Outstanding Junior, History Department, spring, 1993; Carter G. Woodson Award (Outstanding African-American History Student), spring, 1993; President, Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honorary), spring, 1993.

B. Include with your original application a certified transcript from each school named in Subsection 2A and attach copies of each transcript to each application copy. (If your social security number is on your transcript, redact it **before** copying.)

Please see attached Exhibit "A."

C. If applicable, list any military service. Include the name of the military branch; dates of service; last rank achieved; and any honors, awards, or commendations received and when. Attach a copy of your Certificate of Release or Discharge from active duty ("DD214" paperwork).

Not applicable.

3. Post-Secondary Education

A. List all law schools, graduate schools, and post-J.D. programs attended. Include the school name; dates enrolled; degree or certificate earned; class rank; and any academic honors, awards, or scholarships you received and when.

Indiana University Maurer School of Law; August, 1994-December, 1996

Doctor of Jurisprudence; Class Rank, unknown.

Academic Honors: Managing Editor, *Federal Communications Law Journal*, Fall, 1996.

B. Include with your original application a certified transcript from each school named in Subsection 3A and attach copies of each transcript to each application copy. (If your social security number is on your transcripts, redact it **before** copying.)

Please see attached Exhibit "B."

4. Employment

A. Provide your employment history since graduation from college. Include name of employer, titles or positions, locations, and dates of employment.

1. Wabash Magnetics, general laborer, Huntington, Indiana, summer, 1994.

2. Indiana University Maurer School of Law, law library desk attendant, Bloomington, Indiana, 1995.

3. James R. Cotner, Esq., chauffeur, Bloomington, Indiana, 1995-96.

4. Kelly, Belcher & Brown, law clerk, Bloomington, Indiana, 1995-96.

5. Professor Sarah Hughes, Research Assistant, Bloomington, Indiana, summer 1996.

6. Mills & Northrop, Associate, Huntington, Indiana, 1997-99.

7. Mills Northrop & Goff, LLP, Partner, Huntington, Indiana, 1999-2005.

8. The Honorable Daniel J. Vanderpool and The Honorable Robert R. McCallen, III, Wabash Circuit Court, Title IV-D Commissioner, Wabash, Indiana, 2000-05.

9. The Honorable Mark A. McIntosh and The Honorable Jeffrey R. Heffelfinger, Huntington Circuit and Superior Courts, Huntington County Public Defender, Huntington Indiana, 2003-05.

10. State of Indiana, Wabash Superior Court Judge, Wabash, Indiana, July 25, 2005-present.

B. If applicable, describe the nature and extent of your practice of law (present and former) and provide the names of your partners, associates, office mates and employers.

I was engaged in the general practice of law from 1997 until I became a judge in 2005. My practice was typical of a county seat practitioner. Most of my clients were ordinary Hoosiers seeking assistance with ordinary legal problems. The majority of my practice involved domestic relations and criminal cases. However, I also practiced in the areas of collections, wills and estates, personal injury, and I represented a number of small businesses. Practicing in a smaller county allowed me to have a diversified practice which has proved invaluable to me while serving as a superior court judge.

On most days, I enjoyed my practice and I enjoyed the relationships I made with my clients and colleagues. Small town practice in Indiana can be very rewarding. You get to be "Atticus Finch" and there is nothing like it. My clients were "people" not "problems." It is gratifying and humbling to know that your efforts and abilities are all that stand between your client and injustice. On the other hand, the Oath of Attorneys can weigh heavily. I found this especially true when, as a public defender, I would advocate for those who had been accused of heinous crimes. I believe I was a good practitioner. I became a partner in my firm in just 18 months, and, throughout the course of my practice, received a number of awards and offers to work at other firms.

I practiced law with two other Attorneys, William N. "Bill" Mills and Joseph S. "Joe" Northrop. They taught me the importance of treating clients with dignity; adversaries with civility; and Courts with respect. I am grateful to have had them both as mentors and friends. Bill passed away a few years ago. Joe still practices law in Huntington.

5. Trial/Judicial Experience

A. Describe the extent of your jury trial experience, if any.

As a practitioner, I served two years as Huntington County Public Defender. In that role, I defended one-third of the County's indigent criminal and juvenile delinquency cases. I gained significant jury trial experience. I tried approximately ten jury trials, all criminal cases, ranging in severity from misdemeanors to Class A Felonies with Habitual Offender Enhancements.

B. Describe the extent of your bench trial experience, if any.

As a practitioner, I tried hundreds of cases to the bench involving a wide range of legal issues.

C. If applicable, describe the nature and extent of your judicial experience (including as a judge pro tempore). Include a description of your experience presiding over jury trials, if any.

For the past 10 years, I have served as Judge of the Wabash Superior Court. Prior to serving as Judge, I also served five years as a part-time judicial officer under Wabash Circuit Court Judges Daniel J. Vanderpool and Robert R. McCallen, III. Specifically, I served as Title IV-D Commissioner. As Commissioner, I heard most of the County's child support disputes. I also served many days as judge pro tempore, in the Huntington Circuit and Superior Courts.

The Wabash Superior Court is a general jurisdiction court and is one of only two courts of record in Wabash County. Since becoming Judge, I have disposed of tens of thousands of cases involving a wide range of legal issues. All totaled, I have presided over approximately 25 jury trials involving traffic infractions, misdemeanors, felonies, personal injuries, construction disputes, a medical malpractice claim involving death, and a case involving the death of a newspaper carrier who was struck by a fast-traveling police car. I have presided over hundreds of bench trials involving an equally wide range of legal issues. I have also served as hearing officer for the Indiana Supreme Court in an attorney discipline case. Although it could happen at any time, I have never had a decision reversed on appeal. Given the number of cases I have disposed of, I believe this speaks to my commitment to the rule of law.

I have also implemented several new programs, including two certified problem-solving courts. I am especially proud of these programs. Wabash County's Drug Court and Family Drug Treatment Court are operated through our Probation Department and Local DCS Offices, respectively. They were both implemented, with very minimal cost, by utilizing existing staff and through efficient organization of the docket. Most importantly, they are both producing life-saving changes for real people.

I first became Judge through appointment by Governor Mitch Daniels. I had never met Governor Daniels until the day he made me Judge (at the time, I believe, the youngest in Indiana). On that day he told me that he hoped I would not be a Judge who wanted less to do, but more. I was humbled by the confidence he placed in me and I have always tried my best to honor his advice. Unless ethically prohibited, I do not decline requests to serve as special judge. I have also taken significant steps to increase the caseload of the Wabash Superior Court. These have included absorbing the North Manchester Town Court when it was abolished, and implementing local rules which require that half of the County's dissolution of marriage cases (and virtually all of its protection order cases) be filed in the Superior Court. Since my initial appointment, I have been elected and reelected by the citizens of Wabash County.

I believe that it is an honor to work as a public servant. I always try to conduct myself in a manner that will reflect positively on the judiciary as a whole.

6. Professional Experience

Include as writing samples, four selections (in total) from the written materials listed below in Subsections 6A-6C.

A. If applicable, list up to five trial or appellate briefs and/or judicial opinions you have written. Refer to them by caption, case number, and filing date.

1. *Bruce A. Jiosa v. State of Indiana*, Indiana Supreme Court Cause No. 35S00-9910-CR-00619, Amended Brief of Appellant-Defendant, filed January 27, 2000.

2. *In Re: The Marriage of Peggysue Wells and Keith A. Wells*, Huntington Circuit Court Cause No. 35C01-0212-DR-668, Amended Order Resolving Issues Addressed at Hearing Held on April 23, 2014 and Order Resolving Additional Issues Addressed at Hearing Held on September 23, 2014, entered on October 8, 2014.

3. *In Re: The Paternity of T.B.*, Wabash Circuit Court Cause No. 85C01-1005-JP-46, Order Resolving Pending Issues, entered on January 6, 2015.

4. *In Re: The Adoption of S.F.*, Wabash Circuit Court Cause No. 85C01-1110-AD-27, Order Determining Consent Not Required, Pursuant to I.C. § 31-19-9-8, entered on June 7, 2012.

5. *State of Indiana v. Timothy Eslava*, Wabash Superior Court Cause No. 85D01-1201-CM-66, Order Denying Motion to Suppress Evidence, entered on June 1, 2012.

B. If applicable, list up to five legislative drafts or court rules you have written or to which you contributed significantly. Refer to them by official citation, date, and subject matter.

1. District Governance Plan for Administrative District 9 of the Judicial Conference of Indiana, adopted December 13, 2012. In accordance with Rule 3 of the Indiana Administrative Rules and rules established by the Board of Directors of the Indiana Judicial Center, the Plan establishes a structure for the governance, management and administration of Indiana Judicial Administrative District 9 (Wabash, Huntington, Wells and Adams Counties).

2. Wabash County Caseload Allocation Plan, LR85-AR1E-7, reapproved effective date of January 1, 2015. In accordance with Rule 1(E) of the Indiana Administrative Rules, the Rule was implemented to ensure an even distribution of judicial workload among the courts of record in Wabash County.

3. Selection of a Special Judge Pursuant to Trial Rule 79(H), LR 85-TR79-10, Amended effective January 1, 2013. In accordance with Rule 79 of the Indiana Rules of Trial Procedure, the Rule was implemented to govern the process by which special judges are selected in Wabash County in certain situations.

4. Allocation of Dissolution Proceedings between Circuit and Superior Courts, LR85-FL1, adopted 2006. This rule, requiring all original dissolution proceedings be filed on an alternating basis between the courts, was adopted to ensure the efficient resolution of domestic relations cases in the County and to promote an even distribution of judicial workload among the courts of record in Wabash County.

5. Allocation of Criminal Proceedings between Circuit and Superior Courts, LR85-CR2.2-1, Amended effective July 1, 2014. In accordance with Rule 2.2 of the Indiana Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Rule was implemented to establish non-discretionary assignment of felony and misdemeanor cases between the courts of Wabash County.

C. If applicable, list up to five of your contributions to legal journals or other legal publications. Provide titles, official citations, and a brief description of the subject matter.

1. *Protection Order Deskbook*, Chapter 6, No Contact Orders. The Protection Order Deskbook is published by the Indiana Judicial Center and is furnished to all Indiana Trial Court Judges. Together with Referee Matthew Gruett, Lake Superior Court, I substantially rewrote Chapter 6 of the Deskbook which deals with No Contact Orders. The Deskbook may be viewed at <http://www.in.gov/judiciary/forms/po.html>.

D. Identify the five most significant legal matters entrusted to you, whether as a judge or lawyer, and describe why you believe them to be so.

1. *Bruce A. Jiosa v. State of Indiana*, 755 N.E. 2d 605, Indiana Supreme Court Case No. 35S00-9910-CR-00619, Lower Court Case No. 35C01-9808-CF-42. When I was a very new attorney, I was appointed to defend Mr. Jiosa against charges that he had molested his five-year-old daughter and that he was a Habitual Offender. I can still see Judge Mark McIntosh looking out the window of the law library of the Huntington County Courthouse contemplating whether or not to appoint me to the case, which was so difficult in every sense of the word. He had just granted a much more seasoned attorney's motion to withdraw. After doing so, he walked off the bench to briefly ponder who he should appoint successor counsel. I knew he was reluctant to appoint me and, truth be told, I hoped that he would not. He did.

Over the next several months, I thoroughly prepared for trial but hoped that a resolution could be reached without one. No agreed resolution was reached and so, in the late summer of 1999, Mr. Jiosa went on trial. The trial lasted four days and resulted in my client being found guilty on all counts. He was sentenced to serve 80 years in prison. I believed the trial court erroneously excluded evidence which might have altered the

outcome of the case. For that reason, I requested to be appointed as appellate counsel. Mr. Jiosa's appeal to the Indiana Supreme Court was successful and his conviction was overturned. The case was tried a second time and I was again appointed to serve as trial counsel. After the jury had deliberated for several hours, the State offered to allow Mr. Jiosa to plead guilty to a greatly reduced charge. He quickly accepted.

This case was of significant legal importance because it helped to define Rule 615 of the Indiana Rules of Evidence. It was significant to all of those personally involved because of the obvious human tragedies of the case. The case was also significant to me because it helped me to more fully appreciate the obligations of my oath as an attorney. Sometimes that oath requires you to stand in the gap for those who are despised, even when doing so comes at great personal cost. It also helped me to understand the importance of the plea bargaining process and the risks that all parties take when they exercise their right to a trial.

2. *State of Indiana v. Jarrod M. Wall*, 573 N.E. 2d 890, 35C01-8912-CR-935. When I was sixteen years old, one of my high school classmates committed a murder. The circumstances of the case were tragic on many levels. Jarrod Wall had been the President of his class, a star athlete, and an honor student. He had also long been abused by an older acquaintance; a fact which he was unable to share with anyone in a position to help him. Eventually Jarrod acted out by murdering his victim, whom he did not know but whom he believed to be an abuser.

Jarrod pleaded guilty to murder and was sentenced to serve 60 years in prison. The year was 1989 and both Jarrod and I were seniors in high school. I had a difficult time wrapping my head around Jarrod's fate. He had been a better kid than me. In my teenage mind, the situation was unjust. I could not accept that someone with so much promise should be effectively thrown away. Jarrod's crime and his punishment were my motivation for becoming a lawyer. The situation concerned my parents enough that they moved from Huntington County to Wabash County.

Seven years later, I was hired by the law firm that had defended Jarrod. I was engaged to pursue a sentence modification. The modification hearing took place in 2001 and lasted an entire day. We presented a compelling case for modification. Our evidence included: psychological opinions regarding the circumstances which led to the offense, and how unlikely it was that Jarrod would ever reoffend; evidence relating to Jarrod's good conduct while incarcerated; and evidence that he had graduated from college with high honors, while incarcerated. At the conclusion of the hearing, there were strong indications that Jarrod's request for a sentence modification would be granted. However, the statute governing sentence modification required that both the sentencing court and the prosecutor agree to the modification. In Jarrod's case, the victim's family was adamantly opposed to modification and their wishes were respected.

This case gained a high level of notoriety and was the subject of a true crime novel entitled, *Fear No Evil*, by Thomas Jones. The case was significant to me because it changed the course of my life. Jarrod's experiences and my familiarity with them made

me view litigants differently. If I never knew Jarrod, I would not have established problem-solving courts in Wabash County and many lives would be worse as a result. All people are endowed with inherent dignity and worth. If our legal system is to be respected, then we must treat all people accordingly. This is not to suggest that people should not be held responsible for their actions. It simply means that those who are empowered to administer justice must be deliberate, thoughtful, and sometimes creative in doing so. Jarrod taught me that good people can do evil things. My work with problem solving courts has largely been an effort to help people never get to such a desperate point in life.

Jarrod satisfied his sentence on March 09, 2015. He sent me a card to mark the occasion. I attached a copy because I found it to be so moving. His artwork, more than my words, illustrate both the loss which he suffered as a result of his crime, and the power of hope. We all need hope.

3. *Rolla J. Trent, individually and as Administrator of the Estate of Shirley Trent, deceased v. Rodney Richard and the City of Peru*, 52C01-0503-CT-145. During the early morning hours of December 21, 2004, Shirley Trent was delivering newspapers just outside the City Limits of Peru. She was driving on the wrong side of the road in order to more easily place the newspapers in their delivery boxes. At the same time, Officer Rodney Richard of the Peru City Police Department was driving on the same road in the opposite direction. He was travelling at a very high rate of speed, responding to an emergency call involving a member of his family. As the two drivers approached each other, a hill impeded their views. Officer Richard crested the hill and crashed violently into Mrs. Trent's car, killing her. Mrs. Trent's husband and her estate brought suit against both Officer Richard and the City of Peru. I was appointed as special judge.

The case was very procedurally complex. It was delayed for a period of time when it was removed to federal court in order to dispose of potential civil rights claims. When the case was remanded back to state court, I granted summary judgment in favor of Officer Richard because at the time he collided with Mrs. Trent, he was acting in the course of his duties. This decision had significant implications as to the value of the case and the availability of certain defenses. Realizing this, I granted Plaintiffs' request to take an interlocutory appeal of my decision which was affirmed by the Court of Appeals of Indiana. The case was ultimately resolved after a week-long jury trial which resulted in a verdict in favor of Plaintiffs. However, a judgment was never entered on the verdict because the Defendant paid the statutory cap on damages and the Plaintiffs then filed a motion to dismiss.

I was honored to have had the opportunity to preside over a case that was so important to so many people. I also learned how important our constitutional right to trial by jury can be in certain factual situations: the legal rules governing these facts would have suggested that another outcome was more likely. This case demonstrated that some cases are simply unresolvable short of a jury trial.

4. *William and Donna Medley v. Leamon D. Williams*, 85D01-0703-CT-79. This case involved the death of an outwardly healthy teenage girl who had just undergone arthroscopic surgery. During the weekend following her surgery, she developed a deep vein thrombosis which traveled through her circulatory system and eventually caused her death. She was a very promising young lady and was deeply loved by her family. Her parents sued her surgeon for malpractice. The case was resolved after a week-long jury trial which resulted in a verdict in favor of the Defendant. Due to the subject matter, this was a very difficult case. It was simply heartbreaking to realize the loss suffered by the Plaintiffs. However, the evidence presented was fascinating and included testimony of the person who developed the surgical procedure at issue. I was honored to have a case of such importance entrusted to me as judge.

5. *Cody Rutledge v. State of Indiana*, Court of Appeals Case No. 85A04-1407-CR-330, Lower Court Case No. 85D01-1307-FD-501. Mr. Rutledge was charged with Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated, a Class D Felony; Driving While Suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor, and was alleged to be a Habitual Substance Offender. He pleaded not guilty and a two day jury trial was conducted in June, 2014. The trial was bifurcated due to the enhanced charges, and resulted in his conviction on all counts. Mr. Rutledge appealed his convictions. He argued that certain evidence was erroneously admitted over his objection that it was obtained in violation of his rights against unreasonable searches and seizures. My ruling was affirmed by the Court of Appeals of Indiana, on March 19, 2015, in a 20 page published opinion.

I thought it important to include Mr. Rutledge's case in this section of my application because the work of the trial courts is made up of an endless stream of such cases. I believe that each of them should be given the time and attention that I would want my own case to receive. That is what the litigants deserve. Moreover, you never know when a case might help define statewide limits as to the scope of permissible police action.

7. Efforts to Improve the Legal System, Administration of Justice or Society

A. Describe your efforts, achievements, or contributions (including written work, speeches, or presentations) toward the improvement of the law, the legal system, or the administration of justice.

1. Problem Solving Courts. Through my judicial service, I have come to appreciate the value of problem solving courts. When I first became judge, Wabash County was suffering from a serious drug problem. Specifically, a lot of people were struggling with opioid dependence. The problem was serious enough that it was taxing our public safety resources; we even received some disturbing regional press coverage over the issue. At about the same time the great recession hit, and one of the County's largest employers closed its doors putting hundreds of people out of work. This was a challenging time for Wabash County and it was difficult to have a frank and honest discussion about the drug problem. After all, small conservative communities are not supposed to have drug problems and if we admitted that we had a drug problem, how would we ever attract

potential employers to our community? Wabash County decided to face its challenges head on.

(a) Wabash County Drug Court. For my part, I believed that we should preserve our scarce public safety resources for those offenders who presented the greatest threat to public safety. This usually meant violent offenders and drug dealers. However, we still had plenty of other people who got into trouble for less serious offenses, including a lot of drug users. I felt that it was time to approach their cases a little differently. That is how the Wabash County Drug Court began. In our Drug Court, participants spend at least a year in an intensive drug treatment program. They attend regular support groups, regular court hearings, and they hold down employment. Through this process, they either come to terms with the problems which led to their addictions or they do not. If they succeed, then they have truly earned a warm welcome back into the community. If they fail, then they do so under strict supervision by our Probation Department and their violations are dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

This program has been a resounding success. It has changed the lives of many participants and their families. I also believe that it has impacted the way our community views the drug problem. It has helped make it safe for us to be open and honest about the problems facing our community and to work cooperatively to solve them. I am also proud of the fact that our Drug Court is somewhat unique in that it was implemented, and has been run for almost a decade, on a shoestring budget. We have utilized existing probation staff and worked cooperatively with our community mental health provider to supervise and treat participants at a cost which is affordable for the participant and nearly non-existent for the taxpayer.

(b) Wabash County Family Drug Treatment Court. The problems associated with drugs also included an explosion of CHINS (Child in Need of Services) cases for our local DCS office. As parents struggle with addiction, they are oftentimes unable to meet their parental responsibilities. If the problem is bad enough, then children must be removed from the home until it is safe to return them. In such cases, the goal as required by statute is to reunify the family. This process can take a long time, and while the case is pending the children involved are left in a state of limbo. First, it must be determined whether the children are in fact CHINS. This process is rightly adversarial in nature. Parents have the right to a contested hearing to determine whether their children are CHINS. If and when the CHINS determination is made, a case plan is implemented which sets out specific goals to be met before the children may be returned home. It also typically includes regularly scheduled (but infrequent) hearings and meetings to determine whether those goals are being met or whether they are in need of adjustment.

Because we had so many CHINS cases involving drugs, and because of our positive experience with Drug Court, we (DCS Family Case Manager Sara Cole and I) decided to establish Wabash County Family Drug Treatment Court. The purpose of this program is to assist families torn apart by addiction to become whole again. We do this by getting parents into treatment quickly. Appropriate cases are identified by DCS at the earliest stages. Parents are informed of their eligibility and, before entering the program, admit

to the CHINS allegations. Their case is then the subject of frequent staffing by representatives of all agencies involved in the case. Every Friday morning, I meet with these folks in my jury room. They quickly apprise me as to the status of each case. This allows me to be aware of everything that is going right and everything that is going wrong. With this information, we constantly reevaluate what the family needs before reunification can safely occur. This process allows us to cut through what is not necessary and focus our resources on what is fraying the fabric of a particular family.

I am proud of this program because it is the product of cooperation among every important stakeholder in Wabash County's child welfare system. It is innovative; only a small handful of counties (6 out of 92) are utilizing problem solving courts with their CHINS dockets. Most importantly, however, the program is already bringing safety and stability to the lives of our most at risk children.

(c) Community Support Consortium Alternative to State Operated Facilities Placement. The Consortium was created by the Bowen Center to foster cooperation among the counties in which it serves as community mental health provider. More specifically, Bowen has received a large grant from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction. The grant was intended to develop effective local treatment options for patients who, in years past, would have been placed in state mental health hospitals. Bowen serves approximately ten (largely rural) Indiana Counties. The people living in these counties have access to a very limited number of mental health providers; in many communities, Bowen is the only option. Through my work with the Consortium, I have come to understand what a challenge this can present for the service provider. Specifically, how do you provide effective treatment, with limited resources, over a wide geographic area?

I believe that a regional mental health court would help. One significant benefit of such a court would be an ability to coordinate and deliver necessary supervision and mental health services to those patients who do not belong in jail, but frequently find themselves there anyway, due to mental illness. Anyone who has spent significant time working in the courts has run across such a person. While no single county, served by Bowen, has enough cases to justify developing such a court; a multi-county court would make sense, especially given the fact that so many counties in this region rely on the same provider and its resources. Establishing such a court would improve access to services for the mentally ill in a large part of Indiana. I believe that effective treatment for the mentally ill should not be impeded by county lines. One court (or a limited number of courts) with a more specialized docket could effectively connect high need patients with appropriate services. Last year we came close to establishing the Northeast Indiana Regional Mental Health Court, but the idea had not yet ripened. I expect that such a program is going to be implemented soon.

2. Protection Order Committee. Since 2011, I have served as Chair of the Protection Order Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana. The Protection Order Committee led the development and enactment of a complete overhaul of Indiana's Protection Order statutes. The committee prepares updates for Indiana's Protection Order Deskbook, advises the Division of State Court Administration in the development of

forms and procedures for this law, and cooperated with JTAC on the development of the Indiana Protection Order Registry.

The Indiana Protection Order Registry, and its deployment in all 92 Indiana Counties, represents a significant part of Indiana's response to domestic violence. I believe that my service on the committee and my familiarity with a statewide program such as the Registry, have helped to prepare me to serve in statewide judicial office. Specifically, I have had the opportunity to become familiar with some of the challenges associated with implementation of a statewide program. I have also had the opportunity to work collaboratively with others to effectively meet those challenges.

3. Alternative Batterer's Program. In cooperation with Bowen Center, I have established an Alternative Batterer's Program in Wabash County. This program is designed to help batterers better understand themselves, why they become violent, and how to deal with strong feelings constructively. The program operates in much the same way that our Drug Court operates. It also involves frequent court appearances, intense treatment, and close supervision for participants. I am proud of this program because it is proving to be a very cost-effective and successful way to address many domestic violence cases.

4. Wabash County Community Corrections Advisory Board. Wabash County has had a community corrections program for over ten years. The program provides many non-violent offenders the opportunity to serve criminal sentences through electronic home detention or work release. It also serves as a "step-down" program for many people as they re-enter the community from the Indiana Department of Corrections. The program obviously benefits the offender because he or she is able to maintain a degree of stability: a person can pay their debt to society while maintaining obligations to their family and their employer. Our community also benefits as this is a much less expensive alternative to jail or prison. Such programs allow the community to preserve scarce criminal justice resources for those offenders posing the greatest risk to public safety.

5. Huntington County Police Merit Board President. Prior to serving as judge, I served for approximately five years on the Huntington County Police Merit Board (serving as President for approximately two years). The Board, as defined by I.C. §36-8-10-3, has significant responsibility including matters of officer discipline and helping to oversee the officers' retirement fund.

6. CASA. In 1999, I was awarded the Huntington County Leadership Academy's Distinguished Alumni Award in recognition for establishing the Huntington County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) Program.

B. Describe your efforts, achievements, or contributions (including written work, speeches, or presentations) concerning civic, political, or social issues.

1. Family Engagement/Wabash Friends Church Leadership Development Program. My Wife and I are very active members of the Wabash Friends Church. Over the past three years, we have both completed an intensive leadership development and character

building program. The program was started by our lead minister, Alex Falder and the former Director of the Wabash Friends Church Counseling Center, Scott Makin. These gentlemen developed their curriculum in conjunction with Dr. John Townsend. Dr. Townsend is a prolific author and researcher.

The basic idea of this program is that we all have experienced traumas in our past which lead us to live our lives differently than we would otherwise. It is intended to help you recognize your own shortcomings, to realize that you are worthwhile despite them, and to figure out ways to overcome them. The program takes a year to complete and involves getting to know a group of people on a very deep level, and letting them know you just as deeply. We meet as a group, on a monthly basis. During our meetings we have a time of instruction and we participate in a process group. During the time in between, we have an assigned homework partner with whom we check in at least once a week and we have assigned readings. Our original groups still meet and my Wife and I have now both taught our own groups for some time.

This process has helped us to grow closer as a couple and to grow deeper in our friendships with others. I have especially enjoyed going through this process myself because it has helped me to better understand the process that leads so many people to have legal problems. More importantly, I believe that it has provided me with insight as to how to more effectively serve those who I see in Court. The work that Raquel and I have done by participating in and leading such groups, is helping to build strong marriages, strong friendships, and a strong community.

2. Impaired Driving/Presentation of the Regret Public Service Announcement. In 2005, Chris Mason had just completed his freshman year of college. Some of his college friends came to visit him in his hometown of Huntington. Sean Jamian was one of those friends. The group attended a number of parties and consumed too much alcohol. Late in the evening, Sean was driving the group in his new Pontiac GTO. He was driving on a winding country road and he was going much too fast. Chris was asleep in the passenger seat. As the car came to an unexpected turn in the road, it wrapped around a tree, causing Chris to suffer fatal injuries. Sean was convicted of felony OVWI and served a lengthy jail sentence. Prior to going to jail, he created the Regret Public Service Announcement which is designed as a cautionary tale for young people. Together with Sean, Steve Mason (Chris's Dad), and local law enforcement, I presented the Regret Public Service Announcement to all of Wabash County's High School prom attendees prior to the 2007, 2009 and 2011 proms.

3. Helping Hoosiers Without Health Insurance/85 Hope. 85 Hope is Wabash County's Free Medical Clinic. I have served on the Clinic's Board of Directors and assisted in efforts to raise awareness of and support for its work.

C. Describe your efforts, achievements, or contributions (including written work, speeches, or presentations) to improve your local, state, or national community through charitable work or public service.

1. Wabash Friends Church Marriage Retreat. Our Church hosts an annual marriage retreat over Valentine's Day weekend. There are usually over 100 couples in attendance. For many years, my Wife and I have volunteered our time by serving on the retreat planning committee.

2. Wabash Friends Church Youth Group. I regularly serve as a volunteer with my Church Youth Group.

3. ACCESS Youth Center. The Access Youth Center is located in downtown Wabash. It is a street level ministry dedicated to mentoring youth and their families in a safe environment. Mentoring, tutoring, and a snack program are offered to youth on a daily basis with extended service hours on Friday and Saturday evenings. I have served as a tutor at the ACCESS Youth Center.

4. Junior Achievement. Junior Achievement is dedicated to educating students about workforce readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy through experiential, hands-on programs. Throughout my career, I have frequently served as a classroom instructor for Junior Achievement.

5. Angel Food Ministries. Angel Food Ministries was a nationwide food distribution program providing monthly food service to over 500,000 families over 43 states and the District of Columbia. Our Church served as a monthly distribution site for several churches in our region. My wife was a local co-director. Unfortunately, the program eventually shut down due to problems at the national level. While the ministry was functioning, we spent one Saturday per month distributing food to hundreds of families from across northeast Indiana.

6. Science in Motion. For over twenty years, local students in grades 6-9 had the opportunity to go on a two-week summer camping trip over four consecutive summers. During the first year, they traveled northwest to Yellowstone National Park. During the second year, they traveled southwest to the Grand Canyon. During the third year, they traveled southeast to Florida. Finally, during the fourth year, they traveled northeast to Maine. They also visited countless other places of interest on the way to their destinations. Approximately seventy-five students would make these trips. They traveled on school buses and they tent camped the entire time. They kept journals throughout their trip. They learned about our nation, how to be a little more independent and how to persevere through adversity (like bus breakdowns in Salt Lake City, tarantulas, and dust storms in Carlsbad, New Mexico).

For four consecutive years, I had the opportunity to serve as an adult chaperone on these trips. Through this experience, I got to know many fine teachers, other parents who became lifelong friends, as well as many of the young people in my community. The program ceased to exist due to a lack of funding.

7. I regularly speak at local schools, service clubs and churches on any number of issues relating to the law and local courts.

D. Describe the nature and extent of any *pro bono* legal services you have contributed.

As a practitioner, I regularly provided pro bono legal service to those in need. I was recognized for such work as follows:

1. Volunteer Legal Services Pro Bono Attorney of the Year, Huntington County, 2001.
2. Volunteer Legal Services Pro Bono Attorney of the Year, Huntington County, 2002.

E. Indicate your experience teaching law. Provide the dates, names of institutions or programs, and a description of the subject matter taught.

1. July, 2015, Indiana Judicial Center Trial Court Employee Conference. Scheduled to present trial court employees from across Indiana with instruction as to the concepts of procedural and substantive due process.
2. October and November, 2014, Indiana Judicial Center Trial Court Employee Conference. Together with Judge Elizabeth Tavitas, Lake Superior Court, I presented trial court employees from across Indiana with instruction as to best practices for court reporters, from a judge's perspective.
3. October 29, 2013, Indiana Judicial Center Senior Judge Workshop. Presented senior judges from across Indiana with instruction as to Indiana's Civil Protection Order Statute and best practices regarding civil protection orders and no contact orders.
4. January, 2013, Indiana Judicial Center General Jurisdiction Orientation Program. Together with LaJuan Epperson, State Court Administration, I presented newly elected or appointed judicial officers from across Indiana with instruction as to Indiana's Civil Protection Order Statute, best practices regarding civil protection orders and no contact orders, and the Indiana Protection Order Registry.
5. July 17, 2012, Indiana Judicial Center Trial Court Employee Conference. Together with Jeff Bercovitz, Indiana Judicial Center and LaJuan Epperson, State Court Administration, I Presented trial court employees from across Indiana with instruction as to Indiana's Civil Protection Order Statute, best practices regarding civil protection orders and no contact orders, and the Indiana Protection Order Registry.
6. April 29, 2011, "Appeals on Wheels," oral argument held in *Jerry French, et al v. State Farm Casualty Company, et al* 18A021005PL489. Presented audience (composed primarily of high school and college students from Wabash, Huntington, and Miami Counties) with an introduction as to the history of and procedures followed by the Court of Appeals of Indiana.
7. November 6, 2010, Day of Healing: A Personal Growth Conference, presented by Wabash Friends Church Counseling Center and Mental Health America. Presented

program entitled, *Problem Solving Courts-How They Affect You!* Intended to inform those in attendance as to the nature of problem solving courts in Indiana and as to their potential for improving outcomes for the mentally ill in Indiana's Courts.

8. Memberships and Other Activities

A. List any memberships and offices you have held in professional organizations, including dates and description of the purposes of the organizations and of your involvement.

1. Board of Directors, Judicial Conference of Indiana, 2010-present. The Judicial Conference of Indiana was created by statute. The legislature has charged the Judicial Conference with promoting an exchange of experience and suggestions regarding the operation of Indiana's judicial system. I have been elected three times by the Judges of Wabash, Huntington, Wells, and Adams Counties to represent them on the Board. Service on the Board has provided a wonderful opportunity to stay well-informed as to issues of importance to all of Indiana's Judiciary. Coming from a small county, I have really appreciated this opportunity.

2. Vice President, Huntington County Bar Association, 2003-2005.

B. List any memberships and offices you have held in civic or charitable organizations, including dates and descriptions of the purposes of the organizations and of your involvement.

1. Board of Directors, White's Residential and Family Services, 2007-present (former Vice President). White's Residential and Family Services is a nonprofit social service organization that works to redirect, rebuild and restore children, teens and families through emotional healing, personal development and spiritual growth. White's is one Indiana's largest residential placement, foster care, and home-based service providers. They are innovators in their field and have been for over 150 years. I am very proud to have had the opportunity to serve on White's Board.

2. Vice President, Board of Directors, Wabash County YMCA, 2011-present. The work of the YMCA is well known. I am especially proud of the work that has been and is still being done at the Wabash County YMCA. Our local YMCA has received national recognition for its innovative approach to promoting educational savings through a program called the Wabash County Promise. It has also received national recognition for its innovative programming designed to stop summer learning loss. I am also hopeful that the Science in Motion Program will be resurrected, at some point, as part of the Y's summer programming.

3. Board of Directors, Wabash County Chamber of Commerce, 2007-2010.

C. List any memberships you hold in social clubs or organizations. If any restrict its membership on the basis of race, sex, religion, or national origin, please describe your efforts within the organization to eliminate restrictions.

Not applicable.

D. Describe your hobbies and other leisure activities.

I enjoy spending time with my wife and children. Raquel and I have been married our entire adult lives. We started our lives together with very little. We were married at the Wabash County Courthouse in 1993 and went to work second shift at a factory that night. We are very thankful for all that we have been blessed with since that day. We have four children. Our oldest daughter, Ana-Alicia is 23 and graduated from Indiana University last year. She now works with troubled youth at White's Residential and Family Services and is engaged to be married this summer. Her fiancé is a family case manager for DCS. Our son earned All-State football honors the past two years as a wide receiver and will attend Indiana Wesleyan University in the fall. Our middle daughter is a member of a National Champion competitive dance team. Our youngest daughter is very artistic and makes us laugh. We really enjoy watching her be a kid.

We also have a huge multi-cultural extended family (my wife is the eleventh of twelve children). Her Father is a naturalized citizen who came to the United States from Durango, Mexico. He retired from General Motors (Fisher Body, Marion, Indiana) in 2005 and now works as a missionary in Mexico. Much of my family came to Wabash County, a generation earlier, from Kentucky. My Father still works as a maintenance man at a local factory (Living Essentials, manufacturer of 5-Hour Energy) and my Mother still works as a teacher's aide in our local school system. We typically host holiday parties in our home for as many as 100 family members. This is impressive when you consider that we live in a 2000 square foot ranch home. I am proud of my family and its unique heritage.

I enjoy staying physically fit. I exercise regularly. I have completed the Huntington Ultra-Frigid 50K Trail Run (H.U.F.F.) three times. The race is a 50K trail run, held in late December.

9. Legal Proceedings

A. List any lawsuits or legal proceedings in any jurisdiction, including but not limited to bankruptcies, dissolutions, and criminal matters to which you have been a party. Provide dates, case numbers, courts, names of other parties, and, if needed, a brief explanation. (If minor children are involved [i.e. and adoption], use initials only.)

1. *In Re the Adoption of A.C.*, 85C01-9402-AD-3. I adopted one of my children.

2. *In the Matter or Marriage of Jacobs*, 85D01-0302-DR-40. I was sued by a sovereign citizen enthusiast in his dissolution of marriage action. His claim was dismissed.

3. *Christopher M. Goff v. Brenda J. Roberson and John J. Roberson*, 35D01-9905-SC-479 and *Christopher M. Goff v. Michelle C. Hale*, 35C01-0002-CP-93. Early in my practice of law, I filed some lawsuits to recover my attorney's fees. The cases were either adjudicated in my favor or amicably resolved short of judgment.

B. If you ever have been arrested or cited for any violation of the law other than for routine traffic violations, provide dates, jurisdictions, and an explanation of the event and its resolution.

Not applicable.

C. If you have been disciplined or cautioned, formally or informally, by the Indiana Supreme Court Disciplinary Commission, by the Indiana Commission on Judicial Qualifications, by the Indiana Supreme Court, or by similar entities in any other jurisdiction, identify each instance by date, case number (if applicable), and describe the circumstances and the nature of the outcome or resolution.

Not applicable.

D. If you have any outstanding federal, state, or local tax obligations, please itemize and explain.

Not applicable.

10. References

A. Provide the names of three attorneys who have been your professional adversaries in your practice or who have litigated substantial cases in your court and who would be in positions to comment on your qualifications for appointment to the Court of Appeals of Indiana (contact information to be included in Part Two of this application).

1. Mark C. Guenin
2. Bryan J. Michaud
3. The Honorable Daniel J. Vanderpool, Senior Judge

B. Provide the names of three professional references other than those listed in Subsection 10A (contact information to be included in Part Two of this application).

1. The Honorable Jeffrey R. Heffelfinger, Judge of the Huntington Superior Court
2. The Honorable Thomas M. Hakes, Judge of the Huntington Circuit Court
3. Jamie M. Groves

C. Provide the names of three personal references other than those listed in Subsection 10A or 10B (contact information to be included in Part Two of this application).

1. Alex Falder
2. Clint Kugler
3. Jay Driskill

11. State Police Release Form and Photograph

A. Complete a State Police release form printed on green paper (you may obtain the release form by contacting the Nominating Commission Office at 317-232-4706). Include the release form with the original application only and not with the copies.

B. Attach a recent photograph of you to the front of the original application and to each copy of your application. (This allows the Commission members to put a face with a name if you are interviewed in person.)

DATE

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

Christopher M. Goff

PRINTED NAME

